



WORK SESSION of the Greenbelt City Council held Wednesday, August 25, 2004, for the purpose of reviewing the revised Playground Agreement.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. It was held in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center.

PRESENT were Mayor Judith Davis, Mayor pro tem Rodney Roberts and Council members Konrad Herling, Leta Mach and Edward Putens.

ALSO PRESENT were Sheldon Goldberg and Derek Thompson of Windsor Green, Peter Curtis of the Greenbelt News Review, David Moran, Assistant City Manager and Michael McLaughlin, City Manager.

Mayor Davis noted this meeting was for the purpose of reviewing the latest suggested version of the playground agreement. Mr. Moran explained the contents of the proposed agreement. The proposed agreement calls for the City to be responsible for existing and new playground equipment and existing and new surfacing materials, with the property owner sharing in 25% of the cost of new equipment and new surfacing. Council asked for clarification on what constitutes putting in new equipment versus replacement or maintenance of the equipment.

Mr. Thompson noted that Windsor Green is considering reducing the number of playgrounds in its community because of the demographics of the community and the cost of maintaining the playgrounds. Mr. Roberts asked for more definition in points 4 and 5 of the agreement, which address changing and removing equipment. It was felt there needed to be more distinction. Mr. Thompson suggested it might be worthwhile to have two separate agreements: one for the initial period and one for the ongoing relationship.

Mr. Roberts expressed his opinion that any playgrounds to be covered by this agreement should be brought up to compliance before the City gets involved. He wanted to have a cost estimate of the impact of this agreement, if implemented. It was noted that cost could not be determined because it is unknown which neighborhoods, if any, will participate. Ms. Mach commented that an upper limit is known based on the playground survey.

Council reviewed the draft easement language. The use of the word "perpetual" needed to be checked. Council also reviewed the proposed timeline and, after some discussion, was comfortable with it. An estimate of the impact on the City budget was reviewed as well and found satisfactory.

It was noted the agreement will be reviewed in terms of the comments raised this evening and brought to a Council meeting for action, likely in October.

Informational items:

Mr. McLaughlin noted that October 7 was the preferred date for the next 4 Cities meeting. Ms. Mach noted she got a complaint about phone book delivery in Greenbelt Homes (GHI). She noted that GHI is working on the matter. Mr. Herling advised about a new company moving to Greenbelt as reported in the Washington Post and his work with the Maryland Municipal League Communications Committee. Mayor Davis reported on conversations related planning and zoning and her work on the MML legislative committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael McLaughlin
City Manager